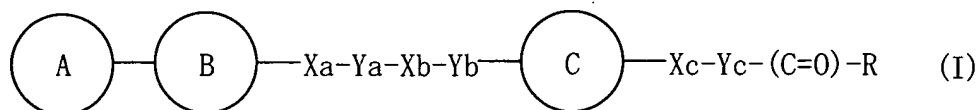


CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a

hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen

atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally

substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon

residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon

group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom,

an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic

group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

provided that,

- (1) when the 1,2-azole ring represented by ring B is pyrazole, ring C is not thiadiazole or oxadiazole;
- (2) when the 1,2-azole ring represented by ring B is isoxazole, ring C is not an optionally substituted pyridone; and
- (3) when the 1,2-azole ring represented by ring B is pyrazole and Xa and Xb are each a bond, ring C is not a benzene ring,

or a salt thereof.

2. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the ring represented by ring A is an aromatic ring.

3. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 2, wherein the aromatic ring is a benzene ring, a pyridine ring or a pyridazine ring.

4. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the 1,2-azole ring represented by ring B is pyrazole.

5. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B is optionally further having is a hydrocarbon group.

6. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituent that ring B is optionally further having is an alkoxy group.
7. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Ya is C₁₋₆ alkylene or C₂₋₆ alkenylene.
8. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xb is -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group).
9. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the monocyclic aromatic ring represented by ring C is a benzene ring.
10. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein the monocyclic aromatic ring represented by ring C is pyrazole.
11. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group).
12. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xa is a bond.
13. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xb is -O-.

14. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Yb is a bond.
15. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xc is a bond or -O-.
16. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, wherein Yc is C₁₋₆ alkylene or C₂₋₆ alkenylene.
17. (ORIGINAL) The compound of claim 1, which is 3-[1-phenyl-3-(4-{3-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5-isoxazolyl}butoxy)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]propionic acid;
- 2-[3-(3-{3-ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenoxy]-2-methylpropionic acid;
- 3-[2-ethoxy-4-(3-{3-ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenyl]propionic acid;
- 3-[3-(3-{3-ethoxy-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]propionic acid;
- [1-phenyl-3-(4-{3-propyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}butoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;
- [2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;
- [2-(3-{3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;
- (2-{3-[1-(5-chloro-2-pyridyl)-3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]propoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid;
- [3-ethyl-2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)phenyl]acetic acid;

[2-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methoxyphenyl]acetic acid;

[3-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

[1-ethyl-5-(3-{3-isopropyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

[1-ethyl-5-(3-{3-propyl-1-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridinyl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]acetic acid;

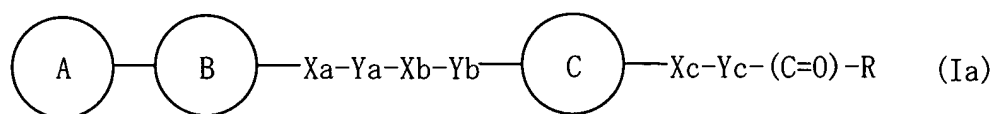
(2-{3-[1-(5-bromo-2-pyridinyl)-3-(1-ethylpropyl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]propoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid; or

[2-(3-{3-tert-butyl-1-[6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazin-3-yl]-1H-pyrazol-4-yl}propoxy)-3-methylphenyl]acetic acid.

18. (ORIGINAL) A prodrug of the compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof.

19. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

20. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition ~~An agent~~ for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a

hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen

atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally

substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon

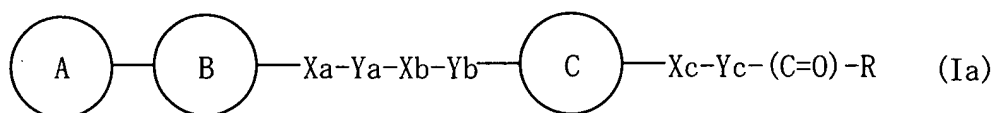
residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

21. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition ~~An agent~~ for the prophylaxis or treatment of hyperlipidemia, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

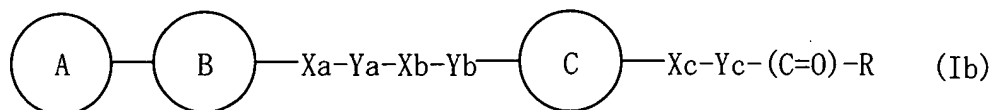
are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

22. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition ~~An agent~~ for the prophylaxis or treatment of arteriosclerosis, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

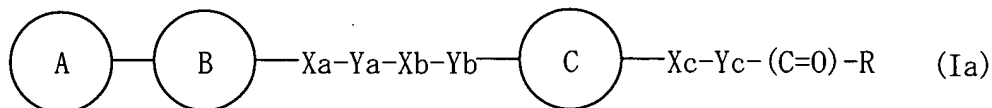
are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

provided that, when the 1,2-azole ring represented by ring B is isoxazole, ring C is not an optionally substituted pyridone, or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

23. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition ~~An agent~~ for the prophylaxis or treatment of impaired glucose tolerance, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

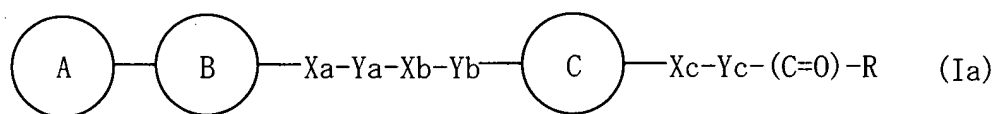
Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),
or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

24. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition which is a retinoid-related receptor function regulating agent, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

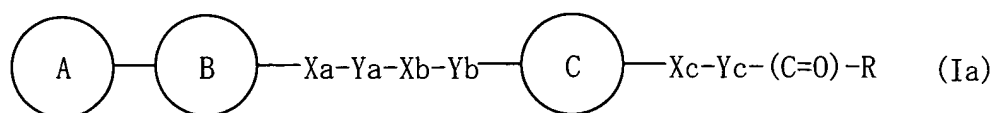
R represents $-OR^4$ (R^4 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or $-NR^5R^6$ (R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R^5 and R^6 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

25. (ORIGINAL) The agent of claim 24, which is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor ligand.

26. (ORIGINAL) The agent of claim 24, which is a retinoid X receptor ligand.

27. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition which is an ~~An~~ insulin resistance improving agent, which comprises a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,
-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a
hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen
atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally
substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

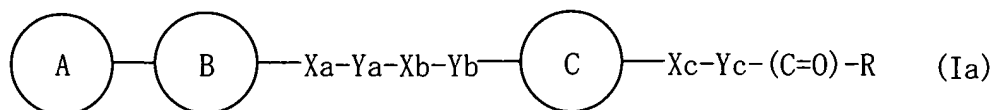
are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon
residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon
group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom,
an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic
group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally
substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or
diluent.

28. (ORIGINAL) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes in a mammal in need
thereof, which comprises administering to the mammal a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a

hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen

atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally

substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon

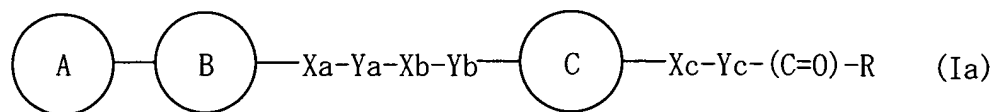
residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

29. (AMENDED) A method for making a pharmaceutical composition with hypoglycemic or hypolipidemic activity, said method comprising combining Use of a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is a 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

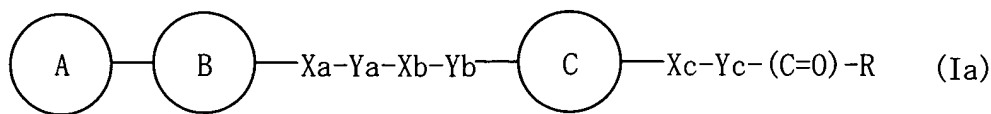
are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, for the production of an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of diabetes.

30. (AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition which is a GPR40 receptor function modulator comprising a compound represented by the formula



wherein

ring A is a ring optionally having 1 to 3 substituents;

ring B is 1,2-azole ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents;

Xa, Xb and Xc

are the same or different and each is a bond, -O-,

-S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CS-, -CR¹(OR²)-, -NR³-, -CONR³- or -NR³CO- (R¹ is a

hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, R² is a hydrogen

atom or hydroxy-protecting group, and R³ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally

substituted hydrocarbon group or an amino-protecting group);

Ya is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

Yb and Yc

are the same or different and each is a bond or a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon

residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

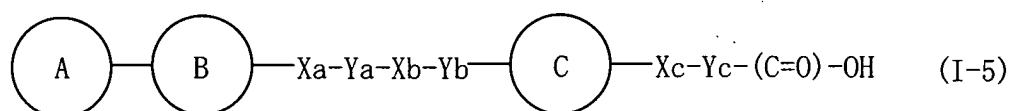
ring C is a monocyclic aromatic ring optionally further having 1 to 3 substituents; and

R represents -OR⁴ (R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group) or -NR⁵R⁶ (R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic

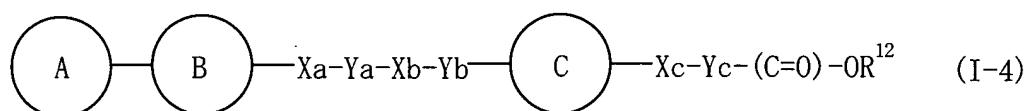
group, or R⁵ and R⁶ form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring),

or a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

31. (AMENDED) A ~~production~~ method of producing a compound represented by the formula

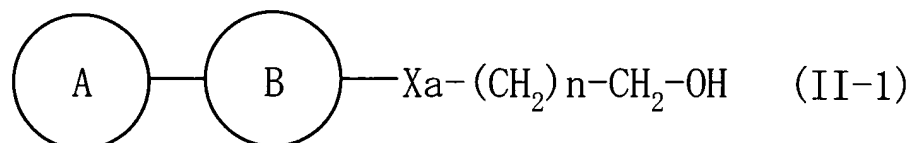


wherein the symbols in the formula are as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the formula

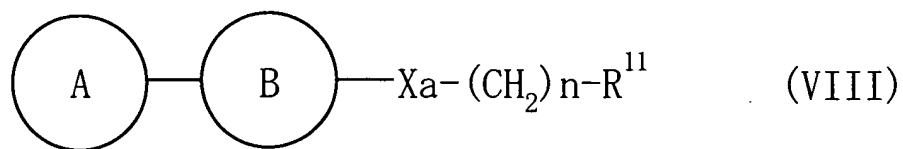


wherein R¹² is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof to a hydrolysis reaction.

32. (AMENDED) A ~~production~~ method of producing a compound represented by the formula

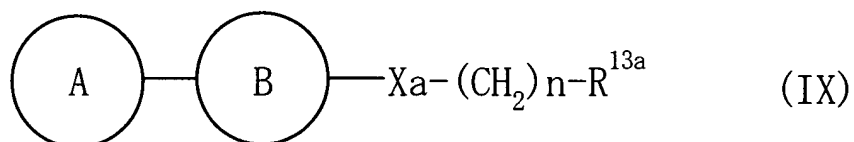


wherein n is an integer of 0 to 5 and other symbols are as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by the formula



wherein R^{11} is CHO or COOR^{13} (R^{13} is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms), and other symbols are as defined above, or a salt thereof to a reduction reaction.

33. (ORIGINAL) A compound represented by the formula



wherein n is an integer of 0 to 5, R^{13a} is CH_2OH , CHO or COOR^{14} (R^{14} is an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms), and other symbols are as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof.